

The Humble Address of the Right Honourable  
Temporal, and Commons in Parliament Assembled.

Die Veneris 13 Decembris, 1695.

**W** E the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament Assembled, having taken into Consideration the State of the Trade of this Kingdom, Do find, That besides many other Disadvantages and Difficulties it now lyes under, An Act of Parliament, that hath lately received Your Majesty's Royal Assent in Your Kingdom of Scotland, for Erecting a Company Trade to Africa and the Indies, is likely to bring many great prejudices and mischiefs to the said Majesty's Subjects, that are concerned in the Wealth of Trade of this Nation: and therefore in all Duty to Your Majesty, and the care we ought to have of this Kingdom, we do humbly Represent to Your Majesty, that the said Act does provide, "That all Ships, Vessels, Merchandize, Goods, and other Effects whatsoever belonging to that Company, shall be free from all manner of Restraints, or Prohibitions, and of all Customs, Taxes, Sesses, Supplies, or other duties imposed, or to be imposed by the Act of Parliament, or otherwise, for the space of One and Twenty Years: And farther, That the said Company, whole Members, Officers, Servants, or others belonging thereto, shall be free both in their persons, Estates and goods employed in the said Stock and Trade, from all manner of Taxes, Sesses, Supplies, Excises, Quartering of Souldiers Transient or Local, or Levying of Souldiers, or other Impositions whatsoever, during the space of One and Twenty years.

By reason of which great Advantages Granted to the Scots-East India Company, and the Duties and Difficulties that lye upon that Trade in England, and a great part of the Stock and Shipping of this Nation will be carried thither; And by this means Scotland be made a Free Port for all East India Commodities; And consequently those several places in Europe, which were supplied from England, will be furnished from thence, much Cheaper than can be done by the English; And therefore this Nation will lose the Benefit of supplying Forraign Parts with those Commodities; which hath alwayes been a Great Article in the Ballance of our Forraign Trade: Moreover, the said Commodities will unavoidably be brought by the Scots into England, by Steake, both by Sea and Land, to the vast Prejudice of the English Trade and Navigation, and to the great Detriment of Your Majesty in Your Customs. And when once that Nation shall have settled themselves in Plantations in America, our Commerce in Tobacco, Sugar, Cotton-Wool, Skins, Masts, &c. will be utterly lost, because the Priviledges of that Nation, granted to them by this Act, are such, That that Kingdom must be the Magazine for all those Commodities, and the English Plantation and the Traffick thereof lost to us, and the Exportation of our own Manufactures yearly Decreased.

Besides these and many other Obstructions that this Act will unavoidably bring to the general Trade of this Nation, "Another Charge in the said Act, whereby Your Majesty Promises to Interpose Your Authority to have Reparation, Reparation and Satisfaction, made for any Damage that may be done to any of the Ships, Goods, Merchandize, Persons, or other Effects whatsoever, belonging to the said Company, and that upon the Publick Charge; Does seem to Engage Your Majesty to Employ the Shipping and Strength at Sea of this Nation, to Support this New Company, to the great Detriment even of this Kingdom.

All which great Prejudices, Inconveniencies and Mischiefs arising by the said Act, we in all Duty and Faithfulness lay before Your Majesty.

And that thereupon His Majesty had been Pleased to make a most Gracious Answer to the Effect Following, Viz.

**I** Have been ill Served in Scotland, but I hope some Remedies may be found to Prevent the Inconveniencies which may arise from this Act.

The Order of the Day for the House to Resolve it self into a Committee of the whole house, to Consider of Wayes and Means for Raising the Supply to be Granted to his Majesty for Carrying on the War against France; being Read,

Ordered,

That the said Committee have Power to send for Papers, and Receive Proposals in Relation thereunto.

Then the House Resolved it self into the said Committee of the whole House: And after some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker Returned the Chair, and Sir Thomas Littleton Reported from the said Committee, That they had made some progress in the Matter to them Referred; And had come to some Resolutions, which they had Directed him to Report when the House will please to Receive the same.

Ordered, That the said Report be made to Morrow Morning.

Ordered, That the Committee of Priviledges and Elections be Adjourned.

And then the House Adjourned till the Morrow Morning Nine a Clock.